

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /116 W
----- 046081

R 161552Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4830

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: TRIESTE ZONE B DISPUTE

1. EMBOFF CALLED MAY 16 ON ACTING CHIEF (MATTEI) FONOFF YUGOSLAV AFFAIRS OFFICE TO INQUIRE HOW THINGS STOOD WITH BELGRADE OVER TRIESTE/ZONE B ISSUE. NOTING THAT TODAY'S PRESS REPORTED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD REPLIED YESTERDAY IN BELGRADE TO THE LAST ITALIAN NOTE (APRIL 16), EMBOFF ASKED IF FONOFF HAD ANY PRELIMINARY REACTION TO YUGOSLAV REPLY. MATTEI RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT YET HAVE FULL TEXT OF YUGOSLAV NOTE, BUT, FROM WHAT HE HAD SEEN, THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN BELGRADE'S POSITION. HOWEVER, WHEN THE TEXT IS RECEIVED, IT WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY.

2. MATTEI SAID THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD MADE ANY FORMAL OVERTURE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS, SECRET OR OTHERWISE, TO SEEK SOLUTION TO DISPUTE. ROME, MATTEI BELIEVES, WOULD BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SUCH A MOVE IF BELGRADE WOULD AGREE TO USE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS TO REACH A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT INVOLVING SATISFACTION OF ITALIAN CLAIMS REGARDING BORDER RECTIFICATIONS, ETC., AND NOT MERELY AS AN EXERCISE TO RATIFY YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B. ITALIANS HAVE NOTED ALLUSION IN TITO'S SARAJEVO APRIL 15 SPEECH TO POSSIBILITY OF BORDER DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, IF BELGRADE CONTINUES TO
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TREAT QUESTION OF YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B AS CLOSED ISSUE

AND NOT RPT NOT PART OF GLOBAL SETTLEMENT,
THEN MATTEI ASSERTED, HE DID NOT SEE HOW PROGRESS COULD BE MADE
TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY RECENT OPPORUNITY FOR BILATERAL
DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE SUCH AS A MIXED COMMISSION MEETING, MATTEI
REPLIED NEGATIVELY SAYING THAT COMMISSION MEETING FORESEEN FOR
APRIL/MAY PERIOD HAD NOT BEEN SCHEDULED. PART OF EXPLANATION
FOR THIS WAS FACT THAT BOTH ITALIAN AND YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVES
TO COMMISSION HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DUTIES AND REPLACEMENTS
HAD NOT BEEN NAMED. THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS, MATTEI ADDED, WAS
OBVIOUSLY TIED IN TURN TO DISPUTE ITSELF.

4. REGARDING BILATERAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL, MATTEI COMMENTED THAT
THEY WERE RELATIVELY GOOD BUT COOLER THAN BEFORE THE DISPUTE. HE
SAID FONOFF HAD MADE DECISION TO CARRY ON AS BEFORE, TO THE EXTENT
POSSIBLE AND MENTINED THAT TWO SIDES HAD RECENTLY SIGNED CREDIT
AGREEMENT. VOLPE

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